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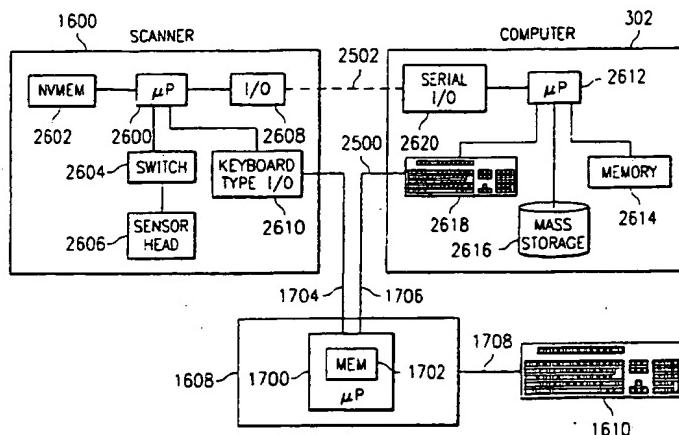
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: **BAR CODE SCANNER AND SOFTWARE INTERFACE INTERLOCK**



(57) Abstract: An interlocking architecture for a software interface and a bar code scanner. Upon power-up, a handshaking operation is performed between a scanner (1600) having a scanner processor (2600) and a computer processor (2612) of a computer (302) based upon the code stored in the NV memory (2602) of the scanner (1600) and a unique code associated with the software interface running on the computer (302). A wedge (1608) is provided as an interface mechanism for the scanner (1600) and a keyboard (1610) to a keyboard port (2500) of the computer (302). The handshaking occurs through the wedge (1608) via a keyboard interface (2610) to the processor (2600) such that a successful handshake directs the processor (2600) to engage a switch (2604) which enables power to a sensing head (2606) for read optically encoded information. The software interface operates from a computer memory (2614) associated with the processor (2612) whereby an unsuccessful handshake using unique number of the software interface by the processor (2612) sends a disabling signal through the keyboard circuit (2618) through the wedge (1608) to the scanner processor (2600) to disengage the switch (2604) to drop power to the sensor head (2606). The handshaking operation is performed on a regular basis during system power-up to ensure that the original software interface and scanner (1600) are still in use.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 G06F H04N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

IBM-TDB, EPO-Internal, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	EP 0 697 793 A (AT & T CORP) 21 February 1996 (1996-02-21) abstract column 1, line 36 -column 1, line 58 column 2, line 49 -column 3, line 44 ---	1-5,8-12
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A	US 4 471 218 A (CULP DAVID W) 11 September 1984 (1984-09-11) abstract column 6, line 9 -column 7, line 41 -----	1,7,8,14

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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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